

Sir Francis Drake

(1543?-1596)

During the time of England's Queen Elizabeth I, many sea captains roamed the seas attacking Spanish ships. These men became known as the "sea dogs." The most famous sea dog was Sir Francis Drake. Drake was also the first Englishman to sail around the world.

Drake was born near Plymouth, England. He grew up among sailors, and as a young man he sailed on slave-trading ships. Drake was commander of his own ship by 1567. While sailing off the coast of Mexico, a group of Spanish ships attacked Drake's fleet. Drake escaped, but the incident increased his hatred of the Spanish.

Drake sailed on several missions to the West Indies for Queen Elizabeth. He also continued to attack and loot Spanish ships near Panama.

He began his famous voyage around the world on December 13, 1577. He and 160 men sailed from Plymouth in five ships. He named his ship the *Golden Hind*. Drake and his men captured and looted several Spanish ships during the expedition. The voyage lasted three years, and only one ship completed the trip. Drake's voyage led to the English trading in the Far East. The voyage pleased the Queen. As a reward, she boarded Drake's ship to give him the honor of knighthood.

Retiring temporarily to his country home, which he bought with the treasures from the voyage, Drake served as mayor of Plymouth and was a representative in the House of Commons.

The Queen then asked him to come out of retirement to command a fleet of 25 ships and 2,000 men. He and his men captured Spanish treasure ships in the West Indies and burned several Spanish towns, including San Tiago, Santo Domingo in the Caribbean, and St. Augustine, Florida. He stopped at the English colony of Roanoke in Virginia and took some of the colonists back to England.

In 1588 Drake was one of the commanders in one of history's most famous battles. The Spanish Armada (fleet of ships) was the largest and most powerful navy in the world. It helped Spain become a major world trading power and often attacked English ships. During the battle between the English fleet and the Spanish Armada, a storm helped destroy many of the Spanish ships. After the destruction of the Armada, Spain's powerful influence declined, and England became the major European power.

Later, Drake and his men attacked the port of Lisbon, Portugal. They took a great amount of treasure, but they lost most of the treasure when a storm destroyed most of his fleet. The failure of this voyage angered the Queen, and she refused to help Drake sail again for over six years.

Drake's last voyage was to the West Indies in 1595. Again he destroyed Spanish towns and took a great deal of treasure. Drake died of dysentery on January 28, 1596, during the return voyage. His crew buried him at sea.

To the English, Drake was a privateer and a national hero; to the Spanish, however, he was only a bloodthirsty, vicious pirate.



Name _____ Date _____

Questions for Consideration

1. What were Englishmen who attacked Spanish ships known as?

2. For what "first" was Sir Francis Drake famous?

3. Where was Drake born?

4. Who was the Queen of England during Drake's time?

5. What was the name of Drake's most famous ship?

6. What reward did the Queen give to Drake?

7. Where did Drake serve as a representative?

8. What town in the United States did Drake once burn?

9. What was the name of the Spanish fleet of ships that Drake helped to defeat?

10. Where did Drake go on his last voyage?

11. In what year did Drake die?

12. Where was he buried?

Name _____ Date _____

Arrange in Chronological Order

Indicate by number the order in which the following events occurred.

- _____ Drake sails on several missions for Queen Elizabeth I
- _____ Drake's last voyage to the West Indies
- _____ Drake was commander of his own ship
- _____ Drake serves as mayor of Plymouth
- _____ Drake was born near Plymouth, England
- _____ Drake begins his now-famous voyage around the world
- _____ Drake dies and is buried at sea
- _____ Drake helps defeat the Spanish Armada
- _____ Drake burns St. Augustine, Florida
- _____ Drake is knighted

Which Does Not Belong?

One word in each list below does not belong with the others. Circle the word in each group that is different. Tell why it is different on the line below each word group.

1. England Spain Portugal Virginia

2. Plymouth St. Augustine Panama Santo Domingo

3. Golden Hind São Tiago Roanoke Lisbon

4. pirate mayor queen knight

5. Spanish English American Portuguese

Sir Henry Morgan

(1635-1688)

Sir Henry Morgan was born in 1635 in Llanrhymmy, a tiny village in Wales. Kidnappers abducted him in the English town of Bristol and sold him as a servant in Barbados.

As a young man living in the Caribbean, Morgan met a pirate named Mansvelt and soon joined his buccaneers. In 1665 they attacked and looted the province of Campeachy, Granada; Costa Rica; and the islands of Cuba and New Providence. Morgan had command of a ship the following year. Morgan and his fellow buccaneers called themselves "The Brethren of the Coast."

Morgan soon captured Jamaica and used it for his base of operations. He lived at Port Royal, Jamaica, much of the time. Port Royal then had the reputation as being the most evil city in the Caribbean.

Morgan's men attacked Spanish cities and ships. In England, he was a hero, since Spain and England were enemies and often at war. The Governor of Jamaica soon hired him to continue attacks on Spanish holdings. He destroyed and looted the cities of Puerto Principe (now Camaguey) in Cuba; Portobello, Panama; as well as Maracaibo, Venezuela; and Gibraltar. He demanded and received a huge ransom for the city of Maracaibo. In addition to attacking Spanish cities, Morgan's crew also captured, looted, and sank several Spanish ships. Morgan and his men often tortured and killed citizens and sailors of the cities and ships they attacked.

Morgan's 1669 attack on Portobello was one of his most controversial. During the attack, Morgan forced nuns and priests to place ladders against the city walls for his men to climb into the city. Officials later criticized Morgan for this action. The pirates had a drunken celebration after the capture of Portobello. During the festivities, a spark ignited a keg of gunpowder. Only ten out of 200 men survived the explosion, but Morgan was not hurt.

The English and Spaniards signed a peace treaty in 1670. In spite of the treaty, Morgan made another famous attack in 1671, looting Panama City. He knew the Spanish had fortified the city against an attack by sea, so he and 1,400 men surprised the Spanish by a bold, 50-mile march through the jungle. The Spanish planned to drive oxen and bulls to attack the intruders. Their plan backfired when the herd turned and stampeded towards the Spaniards. The Spaniards removed and hid much of their treasure, however. They then destroyed the city instead of letting the pirates have it. Nevertheless, the raid was profitable for Morgan. He then double-crossed his own men, leaving most of them with very little money and without ships or provisions.

When Morgan arrived back at Port Royal, the citizens at first gave him a hero's welcome. Later, the governor imprisoned him for violating the truce and returned him to England. In England, King Charles II forgave Morgan and knighted him in November 1674. Morgan returned to Jamaica and became the deputy governor, a post he held for a short time until the governor suspended him.

Morgan then retired to live at his plantation in Port Royal, but he came out of retirement to fight the famous Spanish pirate, Rivera. Morgan died of fever on August 25, 1688. The citizens of Port Royal buried him with honors. During an earthquake in 1692, much of Port Royal, including Morgan's grave, sank beneath the sea.



Name _____ Date _____

Questions for Consideration

1. Where is the village of Llanrhymmy, Sir Henry Morgan's birthplace, located?

2. Who was Mansvelt?

3. What nickname did Morgan and his fellow buccaneers call themselves?

4. What country did Morgan use as the base of his operations?

5. Who hired Morgan to fight the Spanish?

6. Where was Morgan's most controversial battle?

7. What city did Morgan loot in spite of a treaty between England and Spain?

8. What animals did the Spaniards try to use against Morgan's attack?

9. What did Morgan do to his men after the victory against the Spanish in 1671?

10. What king of England forgave and knighted Morgan?

11. What office did Morgan hold near the end of his life?

12. Where did Morgan retire?

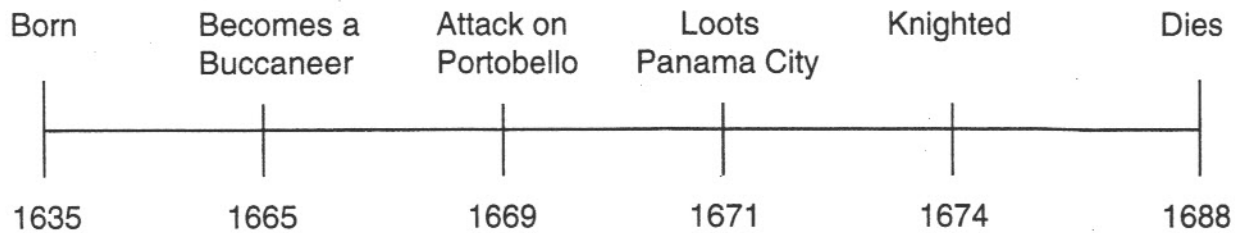
13. When did Morgan die?

14. Where is Morgan's grave today?

Name _____ Date _____

Using a Time Line

This time line gives important events in the life of Sir Henry Morgan. Use it to answer the questions below.



1. How old was Morgan when he died?

2. How old was Morgan when he became a buccaneer?

3. How many years were between Morgan becoming a buccaneer and a knight?

4. How many years were between Morgan's attacks on Portobello and Panama City?

Which Does Not Belong?

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1. Jamaica Llanrhymmy Portobello Port Royal Panama City

2. Campeachy Charles II Henry Morgan Mansvelt Rivera

3. Bristol Buccaneer Governor King Pirate

4. Costa Rica Cuba England Jamaica Panama